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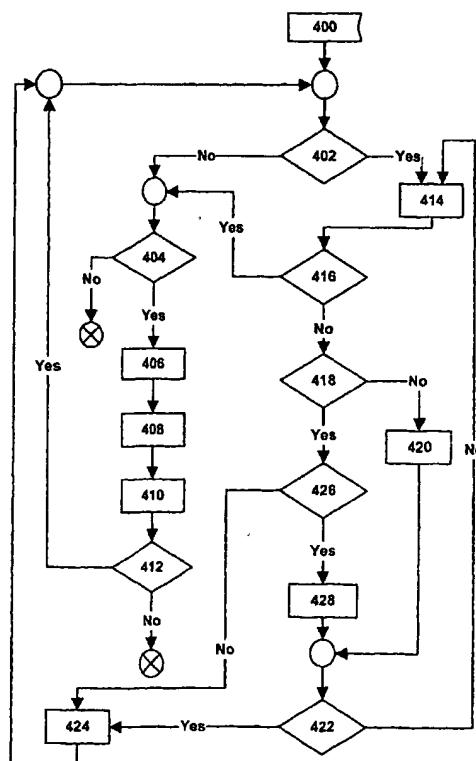
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| (71) <b>Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> SOMA NETWORKS, INC. [US/US]; 185 Berry St., Suite 2000, San Francisco, CA 94107 (US). |  |   |
| (72) <b>Inventor; and</b>  |  |   |
| (75) <b>Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> GERKIS, Anthony,   |  |   |

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- (54) Title: AUTOMATIC RETRANSMIT REQUEST PROTOCOL FOR CHANNELS WITH TIME-VARYING CAPACITY



**(57) Abstract:** A method and system for transmitting data to a receiver over a data link in frames whose data-carrying capacity may vary from frame to frame. When data-carrying capacity is made available in a frame, the data is transmitted in one or more protocol units, each protocol unit having a data payload portion that is implicitly divided into sequentially numbered blocks each having the same fixed length, except if the number of bytes carried in the payload portion is not an integer multiple of the fixed length, then the last block, or the only block if the number of bytes in the payload portion is less than the fixed length, is shorter than the fixed length, and a header portion including the sequence number of the first block in the data payload portion. If it is determined that the receiver did not receive an uncorrupted copy of a previously transmitted protocol unit and there is insufficient data-carrying capacity in the next available frame, then the previously transmitted protocol unit is transmitted in two or more new protocol units formed from the blocks of the previously transmitted protocol unit.